6. Pataliputra Medical College, Dhanbad.
7. Medical College, Bhagalpur.
8. Magadh Medical College, Gaya.
9. Nalanda Medical College, Patna.
10. Sadar Hospital, Gaya.
11. Sadar Hospital, Hazaribagh.
12. Sadar Hospital, Munger.
13. Sadar Hospital, Ara.
14. Sadar Hospital, Biharsharif.
15. Sadar Hospital, Rohtas.
16. Sadar Hospital Devdhar
17. Sadar Hospital, Madhubani.

Blood Banks in Bihar

982. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of blood banks operating in Bihar as on date;

(b) whether all of them possess the testing facilities according to standards prescribed by the Supreme Court in its recent judgment; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for modernisation of these blood banks in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 27 licensed Bl ood Banks operating in the Bihar State as on date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the National AIDS Control Programme, under implementation, all the blood banks run by the Government are being modernised and have been receiving cash and commodity grants under the Blood Safety Programme.

Posting of Consultants/Specialists in the Hospitals of Delhi

983. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Government's policy and norms regarding posting/attachment of Consu'itants/Specialists in Health Directorate;

(b) -whether a number of Consultants/ Specialists are either posted in the Directorate or they manipulate their postings in order to avoid transfers while a number of posts of Consultants/ Specialists remain vacant in hospitals like JIPMER etc. for want of suitable incumbents;

(c) whether Government are committed to aradicate cataract and other eye-related diseases while number of ophthalmologists of the rank of Consultants are sitting idle in the Directorate; and

(d) whether Government would review the policy and post these Consultants in hospitals for optimum utilisation of their talent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RANUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The transfers and postings in respect of officers belonging to Central Health Service are made looking to the vacancy position in the constituent units of the Central Health Service, the hospitals and the Directorate General of Health Services. Special action has been taken to try and fill the posts/vacancies in hospitals like JIPMER etc. which *inter alia* include resorting to ad-hoc and contract appointment and posting new recruits on joining to such places where there are shortages.

(c) and (d) The Government have launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness which is aimed at reducing the prevalence of blindness. In the Directorate General of Health Services, there are two officers one at the level of Additional Directorate General of Health Service and the other at the level of Consultant both specialised in ophthalmology and are involved in the implementation of a large nation-wide programme. The Consultant (Ophthalmology) has been visiting the Eye Department of Safdarjung Hospital twice a week to conduct eye OPD and perform Eye operations.